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NORTH CAROLINA

Farm Report

Cooperative Crop Reporting Service



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FARMERS REPORTING FARM CENSUS INFORMATION

ESTIMATED DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION AT RECORD LEVEL

Estimated milk production on farms in N. C. during December 1954 totaled 141 million pounds -- the highest of record for the month. A further comparison shows that production of milk during the month exceeded December 1953 by 6 million pounds and the 1943-52 December average by 29 million pounds. Estimated production during the last month of the year exactly equaled that of November. As a rule, however, there is usually very little seasonal variation in production between the two months.

Production of milk on U. S. farms in December 1954 totaled 8.8 billion pounds, 1 percent below the 1953 record December outturn; thus, the second highest for the

(See "MILK" Page 2)

EGG PRODUCTION IN BOTH N. C. AND U. S. SETS RECORD DURING DECEMBER

Egg production in N. C. during December 1954 was estimated at 107 million. This was the highest of record for the month, being 15 percent above the 93 million laid during December 1953, the previous high for the month. Estimated total production in the State during the entire year of 1954 reached 1,418 million -- 6 percent more than production during 1953 and, also, the highest yearly total of record.

(See "EGGS" Page 2)

Owners of tracts of land of 3 acres or more should furnish the following information to the appropriate Farm Census Lister:

1. LAND USE IN 1954
 - (a) Acres harvested cropland
 - (b) Land used for soil improving crops
 - (c) Acres idle cropland
 - (d) Pasture land
 - (e) All other land
2. Acres of each crop harvested during calendar year 1954.
3. Tons commercial fertilizer used in 1954.
4. Sows and gilts kept for breeding.
5. Cows and heifers two years old and over on land January 1, 1955.
6. Number hens and pullets of laying age on land January 1, 1955.
7. Tons of silage made during 1954.
8. Cords of pulpwood cut during 1954.
9. People living on this land January 1, 1955.

The purpose of the Farm Census is to obtain reliable information on land use, crop acreages and selected livestock numbers. Information of this type is needed currently in order to plan and carry out the most practical agricultural programs for North Carolina. Changes in the production of crops and livestock brought about by National Legislation and general economic conditions must be based on current and reliable information in order to use our farm resources efficiently and to protect the welfare of Tar Heel farmers. Farmers, individually or collectively, cannot wisely plan for the future without using and studying all available facts pertaining to agriculture in the same way as efficient business men analyze their operations.

EGGS (Continued from Page 1)

Meanwhile, U. S. farm flocks laid 5.5 billion eggs in December -- a record high for the month and 5 percent more than production in December 1953. Egg production reached new highs in all parts of the country except the North Atlantic where it was 2 percent below a year ago. Increases from December 1953 were 8 percent in the South Atlantic and the west, 7 percent in the North Central, and 5 percent in the South Central States. The rate of egg production in December was 14.0 eggs per layer, comparing with 13.6 a year earlier and the average of 10.5 eggs.

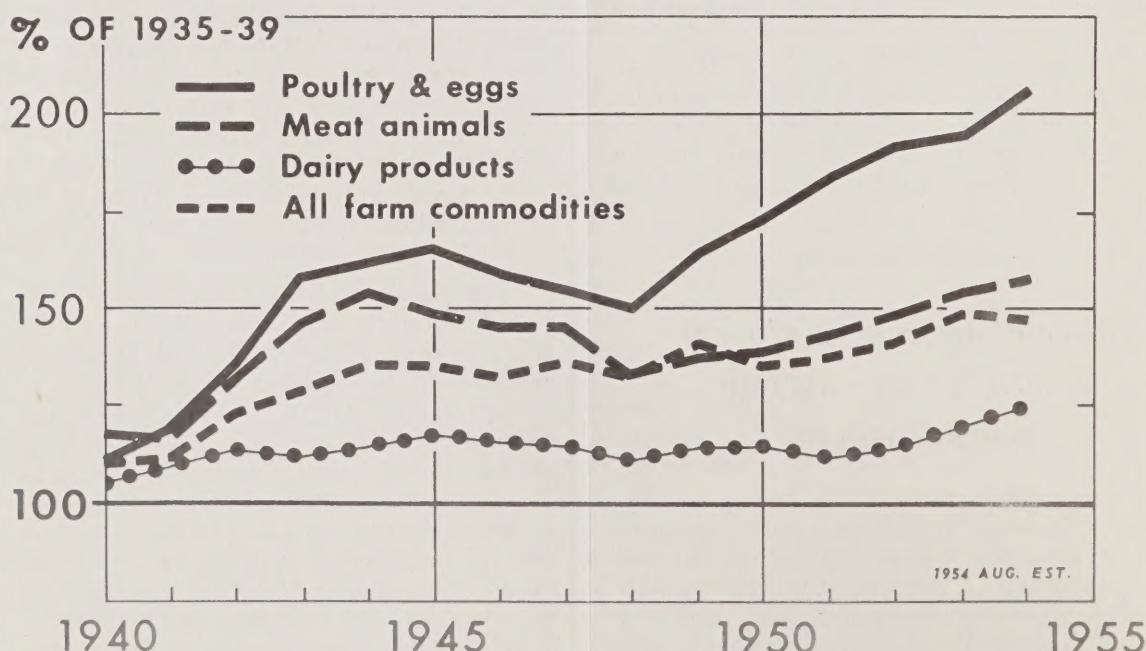
National egg production in 1954 reached a new high of 64.6 billion eggs -- 5 percent more than in 1953 and 13 percent above the 1943-52 average. Most of this increase was due to a larger number of layers on hand during the year.

MILK (Continued from Page 1)

month in 31 years of record. Mild, open weather during December over most of the important dairy areas, liberal supplemental feeding, and heavy fall freshenings contributed to the high level of milk production. Relative to population, December 1954 production was at the rate of 1.74 pounds per capita per day, down slightly from a year earlier, but equal to the 1943-52 average per capita for the month.

The sum of the 12 monthly U. S. milk production estimates made currently in 1954 was 123.8 billion pounds, 2 percent more than the previous high of 121.2 billion pounds in 1953. (This total for 1954 is tentative, pending a more detailed analysis of the number of milk cows and production per cow by States, the results of which will be published in February.)

U. S. OUTPUT OF POULTRY AND EGGS COMPARED TO OTHER PRODUCTS



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 1051-54(8) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Because of gains in the efficiency of production, costs per unit for poultry products have not risen as much as the unit prices for feed, labor and other costs. As a consequence, poultry and egg production has increased more

than output of meat animals, milk, or all farm commodities combined, despite the smaller post-war price rises for poultry products.

CURRENT FARMING CONDITIONS FAIR

An examination of soil conditions at the turn of the New Year shows top-soil moisture as adequate over most of the State. More sub-surface moisture, however, is needed in many counties that were hit by the drought during the past season, especially on lighter soils. Dry soils still prevailed in a few coastal counties during early January.

The freezes which occurred during the first part of December damaged small grains, both from the standpoint of reducing stands and retarding growth. These freezes also resulted in poor germination of late seeded fields, especially where night temperatures were below freezing and day temperatures were above freezing.

Pastures are still in only "poor" to "fair" condition. In many instances pastures have been over-stocked and this has been particularly damaging in areas where the drought was severe.

Some corn was yet to be harvested at the end of 1954 and an occasional field of cotton; however, the unpicked acreage of cotton was probably no more than usual.

The supply of farm labor appears adequate in all areas to meet the present demand. Farmers in the path of Hurricane Hazel have been busy repairing or replacing buildings destroyed by the hurricane.

LARGE FEED SUPPLIES AVAILABLE

For the Nation, a record supply of feed grains and other concentrates is available for the 1954-55 season, and the supply is near record per animal unit. The total 1954 feed grain crop of nearly 122 million tons was among the largest in history. The carryover of feed grains and the supply of by-product feeds are the largest of record. The 1954-55 feed concentrate supply totals 181 million tons, 5 percent larger than in 1953-54.

Allowing for a prospective 3 percent increase in grain-consuming livestock in 1954-55, the feed concentrate supply per animal unit is a little larger than in 1953-54 and near the 1950 record. Domestic utilization of feed grains is expected to increase in 1954-55, but supplies appear to be sufficient to meet increased requirements and leave a carryover at the close

of the 1954-55 season equal to the record level at the beginning.

Although severe drought reduced production of feed crops over large areas of the country, the 1954 growing season was generally favorable for feed grains in the main producing area of the Midwest. The 1954-55 corn supply of 3,884 million bushels is a little smaller than last year, while supplies of oats, barley, and sorghum grains are much larger. Record quantities of oats and barley have been placed under price support through November 15, and a much larger quantity of sorghum grains than in the same period of 1953. A substantial increase in carry-over stocks of these three grains is expected at the close of the 1954-55 season, but a smaller carryover of corn is in prospect.

The seasonal decline in corn prices this year was a little later than in 1953, largely because of the later harvesting and marketing of the crop. In the first half of December, market prices were lower than a year earlier. A larger quantity of lower-quality corn is coming to market this year, and there is a much greater discount for the lower grades of corn than in 1953. Corn prices are expected to advance seasonally this winter and spring. Oats prices are at about the same level as a year earlier, while barley and sorghum grains are a little lower. Soybean meal prices are lower this winter relative to most other high-protein feeds than a year ago, reflecting the much larger supplies this year.

PRICE SUPPORTS ANNOUNCED

The Department of Agriculture recently announced national average price supports for 1955-crop oats at 61 cents per bushel, barley 94 cents per bushel, and sorghum grain at \$1.78 per 100 pounds. The supports are all lower than in 1954, reflecting the reduction in support levels from 85 percent of the parity price for the 1954 crops to 70 percent for the 1955 crops. Cross-compliance among individual crop acreage allotments has been removed as a requirement for eligibility for price supports.

SLIGHTLY LARGER COMMERCIAL POTATO ACREAGE SEEN FOR STATE

Early commercial potato plantings are expected to total 14,000 acres in North Carolina this year. If growers carry out their current intentions, the 1955 acreage will be about 4 percent above the 1954 harvested acreage but 46 percent below the average 1944-53 crop of 25,850 acres.

Intended plantings of the crop for late spring harvest in 12 producing states indicate an increase from the 115,700 acres harvested last year to 131,550 acres for harvest in 1955. This would be a 14 percent increase over last year but would be 18 percent below average. Sizeable increases were indicated in California and Alabama where large reduction in acreage occurred a year earlier. Tennessee is expecting a small increase over a year ago; South Carolina, Arizona, Mississippi and Oklahoma indicate no change; while in Louisiana, Georgia, Texas and Arkansas, the acreage is ex-

pected to be below 1954.

The winter crop of early commercial potatoes is placed at 3,500,000 bushels, 2 percent below last year but 52 percent above average. In Florida, the acreage is slightly above a year ago. Digging is underway in the Everglades, where one of the best crops in recent years is being harvested. Outlook for the Fort Myers-Immokalee area is good and harvest in this area is expected to be quite general around mid-January. In Dade County section, minor frost damage occurred during late December, but the crop has generally made good progress to date. Harvest is expected to start in early February. In Texas, weather conditions have been favorable for the development of the small potato acreage. Light harvest started the last half of December with most of the crop expected to be dug during the early part of January.

COMMERCIAL EARLY POTATOES PLANTINGS FOR 1955 WITH COMPARISONS

CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	10-YEAR AVERAGE 1944-53*	1954	INDI- CATED 1955	10-YEAR AVG. 1944-53*	1954	INDI- CATED 1955	10-YEAR AVERAGE 1944-53*	1954	INDI- CATED 1955
COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES:	ACRES			BUSHELS			1,000 BUSHELS		
WINTER:									
TEXAS.....	9 20	600	500	58	55	55	54	33	28
FLORIDA.....	10,620	11,600	12,400	212	305	280	2,246	3,538	3,472
GROUP TOTAL....	11,540	12,200	12,900	200	293	271	2,300	3,571	3,500
EARLY SPRING:***..	25,220	23,000	23,300	165	275	-	3,990	6,320	-
LATE SPRING:									
NORTH CAROLINA..	25,850	13,500	14,000	194	250	-	4,954	3,375	-
CALIFORNIA.....	69,700	57,000	70,000	400	400	-	27,770	22,800	-
LOUISIANA.....	11,680	5,500	4,100	75	100	-	798	550	-
MISSISSIPPI.....	2,060	600	600	87	110	-	181	66	-
ALABAMA.....	22,100	19,700	24,000	138	180	-	3,023	3,546	-
GEORGIA.....	1,250	600	550	123	115	-	147	69	MAY 10
SOUTH CAROLINA..	9,500	7,000	7,000	151	190	-	1,396	1,330	-
ARIZONA.....	4,100	4,000	4,000	370	365	-	1,518	1,460	-
TEXAS.....	5,320	4,200	3,800	70	70	-	368	294	-
OKLAHOMA.....	1,180	500	500	119	190	-	140	95	-
ARKANSAS.....	3,480	1,500	1,300	86	95	-	304	142	-
TENNESSEE.....	3,830	1,600	1,700	115	150	-	446	240	-
GROUP TOTAL....	160,040	115,700	131,550	262	294	-	41,044	33,967	-
TOTAL ABOVE.....	196,800	150,900	167,750	246	291	-	47,334	43,858	-
ALL STATES ***..	295,180	210,100	-	235	266	-	67,526	55,886	-

* Group averages (including All States) are simple averages of annual data.

** Prospective Acreage for 1955.

*** Total all commercial potatoes.

STRONG DEMAND IN PROSPECT FOR 1955 VEGETABLES

Current expectations are that U. S. consumers' spendable income in 1955 will be relatively close to that of 1954. Accordingly, demand for commercial fresh vegetables in 1955 generally is expected to remain about as strong as last year. Prices received by farmers for vegetables for fresh sale will to a large extent depend upon production. If output is no larger than in 1954 and the movement to market follows the usual seasonal pattern, prices received this year probably will average close to those of last year.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has suggested a moderate reduction from a year earlier in the acreage of vegetables to be harvested in the winter of 1955. The suggested acreage is 4 percent smaller than that harvested last winter, and 5 percent below that in 1953. If yields per acre this winter average close to those of recent years, the tonnage would be about 6 percent below that in 1954 and 8 percent less than in 1953.

OUTLOOK FOR BEEF AND PORK REVIEWED

Cattle slaughter in the Nation failed to increase during the fall of 1954 as in most years, and in September the rate dropped below a year earlier for the first time since March, 1952. The let-up this fall probably ushered in a period of comparative stability in cattle slaughter. Similarly, prices of cattle, while fluctuating grade by grade, are not likely to show any pronounced general trend in the next year or so.

Slaughter of cattle and calves in 1954 probably totaled about 39.4 million head, 7 percent more than 1953 slaughter. Cattle slaughter this winter is expected to be very nearly as large as last winter.

Although the beef supply may be no larger or a bit smaller this winter than last, the U. S. output of pork will be greater. A considerable number of hogs remained on hand January 1 from the 1954 spring pig crop, which was up 12 percent from 1953. The fall pig crop increased

16 percent.

Moreover, a further increase of 5 percent in 1955 spring farrowings was planned by farmers on December 1, indicating more hogs for slaughter throughout most or all of 1955. The increase over a year earlier will be greatest in the spring and least in the fall. Prices of hogs will likely show a seasonal recovery from the early-December low. However, through the spring they will be considerably below the unusually high prices of a year ago. Hog prices in the fall may not be down greatly from the comparable prices of the past fall.

LARGE WHEAT SUPPLY

Total U. S. domestic wheat supplies for the 1954-55 marketing year are estimated at about 1,862 million bushels, consisting of the carryover July 1, 1954 of 903 million, and a crop estimated at 959 million bushels. The total domestic supply exceeds the previous record of 1,731 million bushels in 1953-54 by over 7 percent. Imports, most of which will be feeding quality wheat from Canada, may exceed the 6 million bushels of 1953-54 because the Canadian crop has a large proportion of damaged wheat.

Domestic disappearance for 1954-55 is estimated at about 660 million bushels, somewhat above the relatively small disappearance of about 617 million bushels in 1953-54. Civilian and military food use (including use by Territories of the United States) may be about 490 million bushels, about the same as the 488 million in 1953-54. Feed use may be slightly above 100 million bushels, compared with only about 60 million bushels for 1953-54. About 65 million bushels will be used for seed compared with 70 million bushels a year earlier.

Domestic disappearance of 660 million bushels would leave about 1,200 million bushels from the total supply for export and carryover. Exports in 1954-55 may be as much as 250 million bushels compared with 216 million a year earlier. Exports from July through October totaled about 68 million bushels compared with 80 million a year earlier. A total disappearance of 910 million bushels would result in a further small rise in carry-over stocks by July 1, 1955.

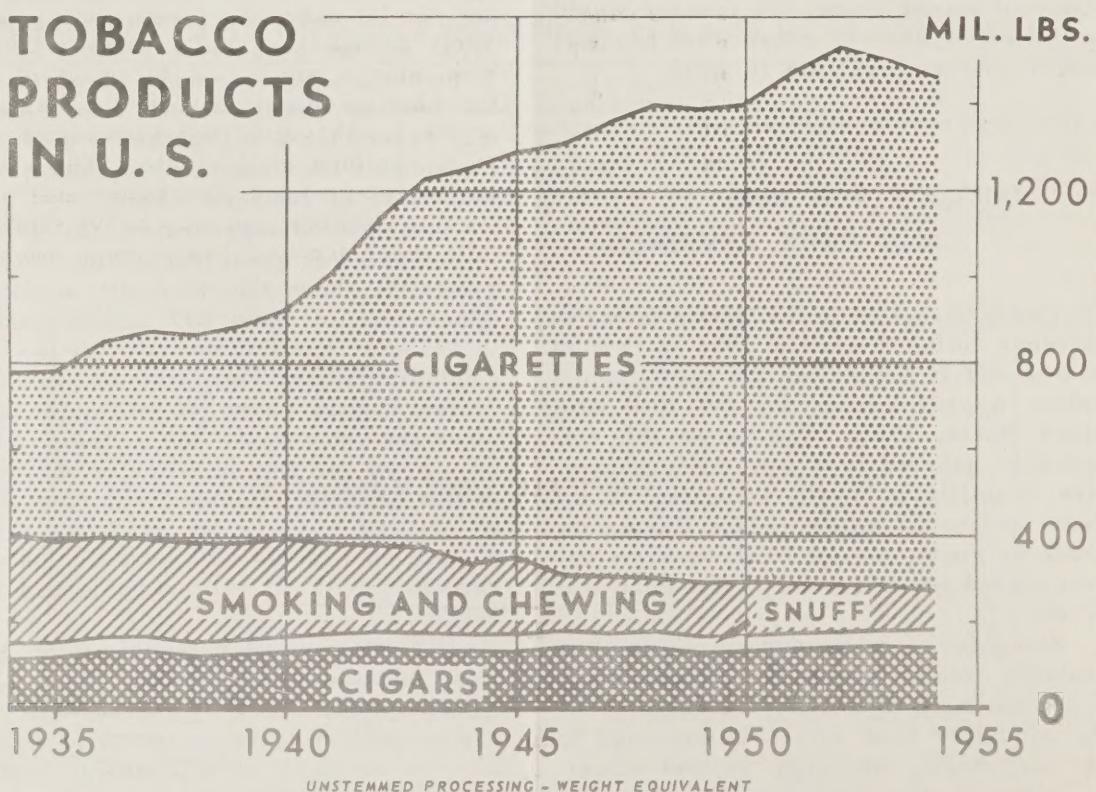
CIGARETTE OUTPUT SMALLER LAST YEAR

Output of cigarettes in 1954 probably totaled between 405 and 410 billion -- 3 or 4 percent less than in 1953. Production was 423 billion in 1953 and a record 435½ billion in 1952. Tax-paid consumption probably was close to 374 billion -- about 13 billion less than in 1953 and about 20 billion below the 1952 record.

During the past 2 years, king size cigarettes, which require about 17 percent more tobacco than regular size, continued to make a considerable gain. Indications are that filter tip cigarettes have made striking gains in the past year, particularly the king size filter tips, which in more recent months probably comprised a large majority of total filter tips. The king size filter tips require about as much tobacco as the regular size non-filter tip

cigarettes.

Retail prices for cigarettes have been steady since manufacturers advanced their prices late in the first quarter of 1953. However, smokers who switched from regular to some king size brands and to filter tips have paid higher prices per pack. Increases in State tax levies or other local government taxes raised retail prices of cigarettes in certain areas. Under the existing law, the Federal tax on cigarettes reverts from 8 cents to 7 cents per pack on April 1, 1955. The 1-cent increase per pack was placed in effect on November 1, 1951. The law originally provided that this increase was to expire on April 1, 1954, but last March Congress extended the higher rate for another year.



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 1063A-54 (8) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

The quantity of tobacco used in the manufacture of tobacco products in 1954 continues high, though down slightly from the two previous years. Cigarette output is estimated to be off a little, with "king size" and "filter tip" accounting for an increased share. In the year ahead, cigarette output is expected to be near the level of recent years. The 1954 output of cigars may be slightly below

last year's and little change is expected in 1955. The estimated output of smoking tobacco is lower than 1953 and chewing tobacco probably will be down slightly. Output of snuff seems likely to be a little larger than last year. Next year, smoking tobacco and snuff are expected to be about the same as this year and chewing tobacco probably will continue its long term downtrend.

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER, 1954

The paths of the main storms affecting North Carolina weather during December passed either to the north or to the south of the State, no storm center actually crossing North Carolina. Those storms passing to the north had little effect other than to bring in cold air on the northerly winds that followed them. The storms passing to the south brought considerable cloudiness over the State, and it was from these that most of the precipitation fell. One such storm crossed South Carolina on the 6th, and turned northeastward up the coast, and a second took a similar path on the 13th; one leg of a storm system whose main path was to the north also crossed South Carolina on the 18th.

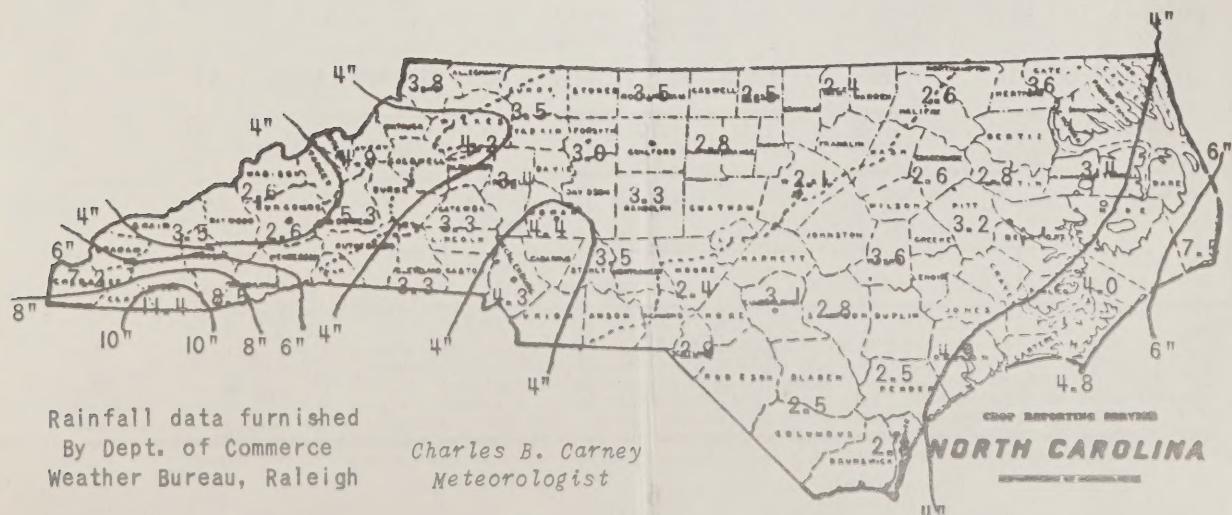
The effect of these storm paths was to make December weather wet in the southern mountains and along the coast, while the rest of the State was less damp. On the whole, December was a cold, damp month ending a warm dry year.

Cold weather set in at the beginning of December, and prevailed with only very brief breaks until the final week. Average temperatures over the State for the month were about three degrees below long-term averages, and around two thirds of the days were below normal in temperature. The coldest weather, however, came on

the mornings of the 7th and 8th, when sunrise readings dropped to twenty degrees or lower right down into the coastal counties. The warmest weather, on the other hand, occurred between Christmas and New Year's Day, when afternoon temperatures exceeding 70 degrees were recorded at some places, while early morning lowest figures ranged all the way from thirty to sixty-five.

Snow fell on December 6 over practically all of North Carolina, climaxing a cold spell that had lasted since the first day of the month. Snow fell on the mountains on several other days, but the only other snowfall reaching broad areas of the State was rather light, occurring on the 19th and 20th. Between these two periods, rather general heavy rain fell on the 13th, in connection with a storm that was similar except in temperature to that which brought the early snow. These three storms accounted for most of the December precipitations. The total amounts for the month varied considerably in different sections of the State. The southern mountains and the easternmost portions of the State had very heavy rainfall, while other sections had average amounts or a little less.

INCHES OF RAINFALL DECEMBER, 1954



FARM REPORT

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FARM STOCKS OF CORN, WHEAT AND HAY BELOW LAST YEAR

Stocks of corn on North Carolina farms, as of January 1, 1955, were 19 percent less than a year earlier. Production from the 1954 crop totaled 47,600,000 bushels or 13.5 percent less than the 1953 crop of 55,028,000 bushels.

On farm wheat stocks, as of January 1, totaled 2,305,000 bushels or 15 percent less than January 1, 1954 stocks. Production from the 1954 crop was also 12 percent less than the 1953 crop.

January 1 stocks of hay on farms were 7 percent less than a year earlier and 22

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percent less than the 1944-53 average January 1 stocks.

Stocks of both oats and soybeans on farms, as of January 1, were above last year. The 1954 oats crop was the largest of record and the 1954 soybean crop was 16 percent above 1953. Stocks of oats and soybeans were 31 and 51 percent, respectively, higher than on farm stocks as of January 1, 1954.

JANUARY 1, FARM STOCKS OF GRAINS, SOYBEANS AND HAY

CROP	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	Average 1944-53	1954	1955	Average 1944-53	1954	1955
<i>THOUSAND BUSHEL'S</i>						
Corn, for grain.	42,248	34,117	27,608	2,036,411	2,144,305	2,070,187
Wheat.....	2,133	2,703	2,305	369,822	423,068	315,689
Oats.....	3,568	5,781	7,547	821,637	773,516	922,637
Sorghum grain...	-	-	-	53,831 *	36,281	51,789
Soybeans.....	1,301	815	1,227	65,839	81,599	150,267
Hay **	849	711	659	69,403	69,603	72,213

* Short-time average.

** Hay stocks in thousand tons.